Syphilis. This is mandatory under the provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, the implementation of which is being strengthened, (ii) Professional donation has been banned and voluntary donation is being promoted through various IEC strategies, (iii) National blood policy expected to function as a strategic framework for developing a safe, reliable and efficient blood transfusion services in the country has been formulated. National Blood Transfusion Council at the national level and State Blood Transfusion Councils at the state level have established to help in better management of Blood Transfusion Services.

Use of Expired Medicines During Pulse Polio Drive

1568. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that expired medicines were used during the pulse polio drive;

(b) whether it is also a fact that most of such cases were detected in U.P. and Rajasthan;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the CBI has registered cases of not providing the polio dose in Rajasthan, besides the scam of Rs. 40 lakhs; and

(e) if so, the details of action taken against the officials found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HELATH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Question does not arise.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. There has been no report of any case registered for not providing polio doses in Rajasthan. However, a case of alleged financial irregularity by some officials of Rajasthan Government is presently under investigation by CBI.

Meeting of Chief Ministers on AIDS

1569. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister had called a meeting of the Chief Ministers to discuss the alarming situation arising out of AIDS;

(b) if so, the major decisions taken to control the alarming situation;

(c) the number of AIDS/HIV patients in the country as on today; and

(d) whether Government are planning to set-up testing centres in all districts of Southern States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Prime Minister convened a meeting of the Chief Ministers of the six high prevalence States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Manipur and Nagaland to review the implementation of the prevention, control and care activities to be undertaken as part of the National AIDS Control Programme Phase-II.

(b) The Hon'ble Prime Minister has appealed to the Chief Ministers to personally monitor the programme activities specially for awareness among youth and women, school education programmes and adequate care and provision of drugs in the public hospital. He also suggested that religious establishments who can have a strong prositive influence over large sections of our society should be actively involved. He reassured the Chief Ministers that the Centre would continue to partner with them in every possible way in the joint war against HIV/AIDS.

The Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Nagaland who attended the meeting responded positively to the initiatives taken by the Prime Minister and assured him that they would keep HIV/AIDS on top priority in view of the high prevalence of the infection in their States. They would also undertake activities for the involvement of informal leaders and community leaders in the programme. In Nagaland a convergence with the drug-de-addiction programme was highlighted as an important strategy. The Chief Ministers requested the Government of India to increase funding for priority areas of the programme such as support to hospital infection control measures, medicines for opportunistic infection and prevention of mother to child transmission. They asked for adequate supply of condoms and their availability through the public distribution network.

(c) As per data from Sentinel Surveillance, it is estimated that 3.86 million people in the country are infected with HIV as in mid-2000. The total number of reported AIDS cases as on June 30th, 2001 is 24,087.

(d) Yes, Sir. The Government is planning to set up HIV/AID testing centres in alt districts of Maharashta, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Manipur and Nagaland. The other States/UTs, districts will be covered in a phased manner in a period of 2-3 years.